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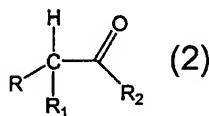
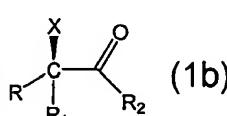
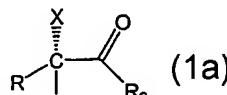
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(54) Title: CATALYTIC ASYMMETRIC SYNTHESIS OF OPTICALLY ACTIVE  $\alpha$ -HALO-CARBONYL COMPOUNDS



(57) Abstract: A process for the catalytic asymmetric synthesis of an optically active compound of the formula (1a) or (1b); wherein R is an organic group; X is halogen; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> which may be the same or different represents H, or an organic group or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> may be bridged together forming part of a ring system; R and R<sub>2</sub> may be bridged together forming part of a ring system; with the proviso that R and R<sub>1</sub> are different and R<sub>2</sub>, when different from H, is attached through a carbon-carbon bond, comprising the step of reacting a compound of the formula (2) with a halogenation agent in the presence of a catalytic amount of a chiral nitrogen containing organic compound.

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